AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 – 23 (Cancelled).

24.   (New).   A moving picture prediction system for predicting a moving picture to be implemented in at least one of an encoding and a decoding, the moving picture prediction system comprising:

a plurality of memories that store picture data as a reference for prediction; and

a prediction picture generation section comprising:

a motion compensator that receives a parameter representing a motion of a picture segment to be predicted, and generates a predicted picture by using the picture data stored in the plurality of memories based upon the parameter, and

a memory update unit that updates the picture data stored in at least one of the plurality of memories and controls the number of the plurality of memories to be used for prediction.

25.   (New) A moving picture prediction method of predicting a moving picture to be implemented in at least one of an encoder or decoder, the moving picture prediction method comprising:

receiving a parameter representing a motion of a picture segment to be predicted;

generating a predicted picture by using the picture data stored in the plurality of memories based upon the parameter;

updating the picture data stored in at least one of the plurality of memories and;

controlling the number of the plurality of memories to be used for prediction.